Claims

1. The use of (i) a naked binding member which binds to both SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55 or (ii) a nucleic acid encoding said binding member in the preparation of a medicament for the neutralisation of CD55.

2. The use of (i) a naked binding member which binds to both SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55 or (ii) a nucleic acid encoding said binding member in the preparation of a medicament for the enhancement of complement deposition on a tissue.

3. The use of (i) a naked binding member which binds to both SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55 or (ii) a nucleic acid encoding said binding member in the preparation of a medicament for treating cancer.

4. The use according to claim 3 wherein the cancer is one or more of colorectal, breast , ovarian, cervical, gastric, lung, liver, skin and myeloid (e.g. bone marrow) cancer.

5. The use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the binding member is an antibody or a fragment thereof.

6. The use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the binding member binds to amino acids 83-93and SCR2 amino acids 101-112 and amino acids 145-157 of the sequences shown in Figure 1b.

7. The use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the binding member comprises one or more of the CDRs of the antibody, or a fragment thereof, produced by the cell line deposited at ATCC under accession number HB9173.

8. The use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the binding member is the antibody 791T/36 produced by the hybridoma cell deposited at ATCC under accession number HB9173.

9. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the binding member comprises at least one human constant region.

10. A naked binding member which binds to both SCR1 and SCR2 for use in the treatment of cancer.

11. A naked binding member, which binds to both SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55, and an active agent as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of cancer.

12. The combined preparation according to claim 11, wherein said active agent is a Doxorubicin, taxol, 5-Fluorouracil, Irinotecan or Cisplatin.

13. The combined preparation according to claim 11 wherein said active agent is an antibody.

14. The combined preparation according to claim 13 wherein said active agent is an anti-CD20 antibody;

an anti-VEGF antibody; an anti-CD171A antibody; an anti-CEA anti-idiotypic mAb; an anti-EGFR antibody; an anti-HMFG anti-idiotypic mAb; an anti-EGFR antibody, or an anti-HER2 antibody e.g. Herceptin, Genentech (South San Francisco, CA, USA).

15. The naked binding member according to any one of claims 10 to 11, or the combined preparation according to any one of claims 12 to 14 wherein the naked binding member is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.

16. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of cancer, wherein the composition comprises a naked binding member that binds to both SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

17. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16, wherein the naked binding member is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.

18. A method of neutralisation of CD55, comprising administration of a naked binding member which specifically binds to SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55.

19. A method of enhancing complement deposition comprising administration of a naked binding member which specifically binds to SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55.

20. A method of treating cancer comprising administration of a therapeutically effective amount

of a naked binding member which specifically binds to SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55 to a mammal in need thereof.

21. A method according to any one of claims 16 to 18 wherein the naked binding member is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.

22. An assay method for identification of an agent capable of inhibiting CD55 comprising step:

a) bringing into contact a candidate agent with at least a portion of SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55; and

b) determining binding of said candidate agent to both SCR1 and SCR2.

23. An assay method for identification of an agent capable of inhibiting CD55 comprising:

(a) bringing into contact a candidate agent with at least a portion of SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55 in the presence of a naked binding member which in the absence of the candidate agent is capable of binding both SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55; and

(b) determining the extent to which the candidate agent inhibits binding of the naked binding member to SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55.

24. The assay method according to claim 23 wherein the binding member is as defined in any one of claims 6 to 9.

25. The assay method according to any one of claims 22 to claim 24 further comprising step (c) selecting a candidate agent which bind both SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55; and/or step (d) determining the amount of complement deposition on a cell sample in the presence and absence of the candidate agent.

26. The assay method according to any one of claims 22 to 25 wherein said portion of SCR1 and SCR2 of CD55 comprises amino acids 83-93, 101-112 and 145-157 of the sequences shown in Figure 1b.

27. Use of an agent identified by the assay method of any one of claims 22 to 26 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.